



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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P.O. BOX 1460  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

September 15, 2003

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: WM-9

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes  
Director of Public Works

### **SANTA MONICA BAY BEACHES DRY- AND WET-WEATHER BACTERIA TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD REGULATIONS**

In a memo dated April 2, 2003, I brought to your attention the matter of the wet-weather bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) regulation for Santa Monica Bay beaches. A copy of this memo is attached for your reference. In June 2003, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved both the wet- and dry-weather bacteria TMDLs for Santa Monica Bay beaches. The TMDLs became legally effective on July 15, 2003. They will have a significant, long-term impact on the County.

The TMDLs regulations designate the County of Los Angeles as a responsible agency along with others that drain to the Santa Monica Bay. The wet-weather TMDLs divide the 27 coastal subwatersheds draining into Santa Monica Bay into seven "jurisdictional groups" (see attached map), each having a lead agency plus a number of responsible agencies. The County is the lead in Jurisdictional Group 1 and is a participant in each of the other six jurisdictional groups. The County of Los Angeles, based on land area, has been designated the responsible agency with "primary jurisdiction" for Jurisdiction 1 which covers all of the rural watersheds in the north Santa Monica Bay, except for Nicholas Canyon. The other responsible agencies in Jurisdiction 1 are: CalTrans; Ventura County; California State Department of Parks and Recreation; and the Cities of Malibu, Los Angeles, and Calabasas.

While Public Works and the Flood Control District have provided leadership and funds to develop these and other TMDLs, successful implementation will require participation and funding from other County departments, such as Beaches and Harbors, Health Services, Parks and Recreation and, to a lesser degree, other departments that may have facilities within the jurisdictional areas. The major timelines and impacts to us and the 22 cities, CalTrans, three publicly operated treatment works, and other local and State agencies having jurisdiction over the beach are listed below.

**The following are key deadlines:**

By November 12, 2003:

- Submit a coordinated shoreline monitoring plan to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

By March 15, 2005:

- Submit draft wet-weather TMDLs implementation plans to the Regional Board describing how each responsible agency will cooperatively, through jurisdictional groups, achieve compliance with these TMDLs.

By July 15, 2006:

- Achieve compliance with dry-weather TMDL requirements during the summer.

By July 15, 2009:

- Achieve compliance with dry-weather TMDL requirements during the winter, except during rainstorms.
- Meet interim compliance requirements for the wet-weather TMDLs. Actual interim and final compliance targets will depend on the implementation approach selected by each jurisdictional group. A jurisdictional group may be allowed up to 18 years to achieve full compliance if it pursues a holistic, watershed management implementation approach. The Regional Board will determine the actual compliance schedule for each jurisdictional group after reviewing the implementation plans.

For the dry-weather TMDLs, compliance will be achieved primarily through the physical diversion of dry-weather storm drain flows to the sanitary sewer system. The capital cost for low-flow diversion structures under County jurisdiction is estimated to be in excess of \$50 million and the operating and maintenance cost is expected to range up to \$100,000 annually. Investigations are ongoing to evaluate the total number of low-flow diversion structures needed in the future to achieve full compliance.

Each Supervisor  
September 15, 2003  
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Compliance with the wet-weather TMDLs will present a greater challenge for all agencies. Jurisdictional Group 1 is committed to pursuing a holistic, watershed management solution to the greatest extent practicable. Developing such a solution provides the greatest opportunity for qualifying for the lengthiest implementation period. It also requires a collaborative effort among multiple stakeholders. The cost to prepare the Jurisdictional Group 1 implementation plan is estimated at \$500,000. The full cost of compliance with the wet-weather TMDLs remains unknown at this time although the Regional Board estimates it would cost as much as \$400 million for all jurisdictions.

The cost of the TMDLs' compliance monitoring program for the seven jurisdictional groups is estimated at up to \$250,000 annually. The County's share of costs may be as much as 50 percent.

Costs to comply with these TMDLs are substantial but cost estimates are difficult to predict until implementation strategies are developed and approved by the Regional Board. Public Works is assessing potential funding sources, and we anticipate significant impacts on the County's funds. We will keep you advised on immediate funding needs and long-range implementation cost estimates as they become better quantified.

If you have any questions, please call me, or your staff may contact Don Wolfe, Chief Deputy Director, at (626) 458-4014.

FW:sw

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Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office  
Executive Office  
Department of Beaches and Harbors  
Department of Health Services  
Department of Parks and Recreation



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JAMES A. NOYES, Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
P.O. BOX 1460  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

April 2, 2003

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE:

WM-9

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes *Donald L. Wolfe*  
Director of Public Works

**SANTA MONICA BAY BEACHES WET-WEATHER  
BACTERIA TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD REGULATION**

On March 19, 2003, the State Water Resources Control Board approved the wet-weather bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Santa Monica Bay beaches. This TMDL will cover 27 areas (subwatersheds) that drain into the Santa Monica Bay beaches. These areas are grouped into seven jurisdictional groups for TMDL implementation purposes. Each of the seven jurisdictional groups is assigned a primary jurisdiction and other responsible jurisdictions. The primary jurisdiction is the municipality that overlays the greatest land area within the jurisdictional group. The County is the primary jurisdiction in one of the seven groups and a responsible jurisdiction in five others.

The TMDL requires that the primary jurisdiction and the other responsible jurisdictions in each jurisdictional group submit an implementation plan within 20 months from the TMDL approval date. We anticipate that such a plan will require hiring consultants to perform fieldwork, such as water quality monitoring, hydrological investigation, and evaluation of various Best Management Practices. To facilitate the preparation of the plan, Public Works and the other responsible jurisdictions are preparing a Memorandum of Understanding. The cost of plan preparation will be approximately \$500,000. The cost of implementation over a 15- to 20-year period could range as high as \$400 million per Regional Board estimates.

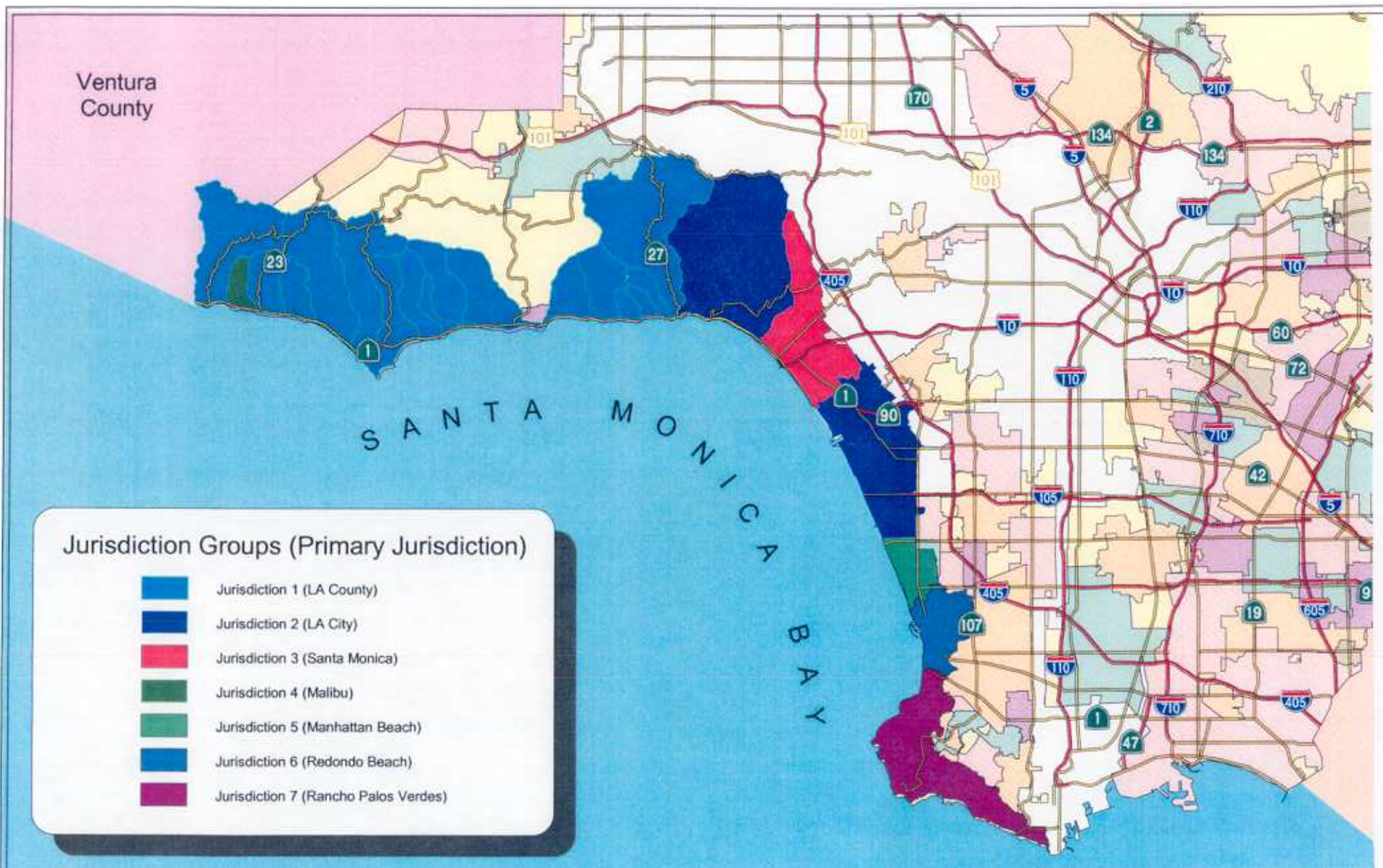
If you have any questions, please call me, or your staff may contact Don Wolfe at (626) 458-4014.

*AS*  
AA/BD:ro

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*Adam*  
cc: Chief Administrative Office  
Executive Office

bc: Watershed Management (Lafferty)



## Santa Monica Bay Wet Weather Bacteria TMDL Jurisdictional Groups



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